

HEALTH
A 12 SEP 1945
O.R. 37



IN THE

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of the

of

for

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

County Hall,

Hobson Street,

Cambridge.

June 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesterton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1944 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Chesterton Rural District. There are no immediately urgent matters to which it is necessary to draw attention. The General Health of the population has, so far, been well maintained.

ARTHUR MORGAN

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

Area	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	53
Estimated Resident population	33,600
Rateable Value	£135,575
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£546
No. of inhabitable houses according to rate books	10,133

The District is agricultural in character and the principal occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, jam making etc.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year

Live births:-	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	595	300	295
Illegitimate	57	35	22
	<u>652</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>317</u>

Birth rate per thousand estimated population 19.4
 " " " " population (England & Wales) .. 17.6

Stillbirths:-	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	11	4	7
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>

Rate per thousand total (Live and Stillbirths) 18.0

Deaths -	Total	Male	Female
	401	196	205

Death rate per thousand estimated population 11.9
 " " " " population (England & Wales). 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
(b) Other Puerperal Causes...		1

Rate per thousand total (Live & Stillbirths) 1.5

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	21	12	9
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	<u>26</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per thousand live births 39.8
 Legitimate infants per thousand Legitimate Live Births 35.3
 Illegitimate infants per thousand Illegitimate live Births 87.7

(cont. over)

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	59
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	6
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3

Births and death rates for the last six years as compared with the year under review :-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Birth rate	12.5	13.7	12.0	12.5	16.6	15.8	19.4
Death rate	10.4	12.6	15.8	14.1	11.6	10.4	11.9

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority :-

Medical Officer of Health - A whole time Officer who also acts for all the Rural Districts in the County.

Sanitary Inspectors - Normally the staff consists of a Chief Sanitary Inspector and two others. The two additional Inspectors, however, are both serving with H.M. Forces and the temporary Assistant Inspector has left the service of the Council. The Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr E. B. Newman, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.) is, therefore, working single handed.

Laboratory Facilities :-

Chemical analyses and Bacteriological examinations of water etc. are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with Infectious Diseases are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. Samples of Milk are examined at the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge.

Hospitals :-

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital by agreement. The Oakington Isolation Hospital was closed in February 1938 and has since been taken over by the Cambridgeshire County Council for use as a smallpox Hospital in the event of an emergency.

So far as general Hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of Tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

Nursing in the Home :-

No alteration.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :-

No alteration.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1944 and represents the work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector only :-

(cont. over)

	1944
Total inspections recorded	2680
Inspections made under Milk & Dairies Orders	720
Slaughterhouse Inspections	1
Bakehouse Inspections	47
Infectious cases removed	79
Houses fumigated	93
Samples of Water taken	49
Inspection of Food Premises	184
Inspections under the Factories Acts	90
Visits re complaints	557
Inspections under the Housing Acts	372
Schools Inspected	25
Miscellaneous Visits	463

HOUSING

Number of houses erected by the Local Authority	12
Number of houses built or in course of erection by private enterprise	Nil
Number of houses repaired by means of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	Nil

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year :-

Houses Inspected	272
Re-inspections made	100
Demolition Orders made	Nil
Houses demolished	1
Undertakings (Sec. 11) accepted	2
Houses made fit	50

Since the passing of the Housing Act 1930 the following action has been made :-

Houses demolished	377
" " (voluntarily)	10
Houses in respect of which undertakings (Sec. 11) have been accepted	52
Houses (or parts) closed	4
Houses made fit by formal action	16
Houses made fit by informal action	522

Note.- These figures are totals up to 31/3/45.

During the year under review a partial survey was made of houses in bad repair and an estimate obtained of the number which should be scheduled for demolition when alternative accommodation is available. In view of the more comprehensive survey suggested in the report of the Hobhouse Committee further work in this direction has been suspended for the time being.

The scarcity of building labour in the Rural areas continues to be acute and it has been found impossible to secure more than essential maintenance repairs, and these only with difficulty. It should also be noted that, owing to staff shortage, very little routine work has been possible and much repair work carried out as a result of informal action under the Public Health Acts has gone unrecorded.

WATER SUPPLY

Mains supplies in the area are derived from 6 waterworks - i.e. three works owned by the Council, two private companies, and one Joint Water Board. Of the 53 parishes in the area, 35 have a constant piped supply of some form or another.

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WATER SUPPLY (cont.)

It is estimated that 55% of the total houses in the District have water laid on and a further 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % are within 100 yds. of a main and are supplied mainly from public standpipes.

Owing to the abnormally dry season it became necessary to cart water to the following parishes during the summer months:-

Hardwick (part)	Toft
Dry Drayton (part)	Papworth St. Agnes
Eltisley	Six Mile Bottom
Croxton	

In the case of Hardwick (part) Dry Drayton (part) and Papworth St. Agnes it is anticipated that water carting will have to be continued until mains supply can be provided.

In the case of Graveley a supply has been afforded from the Air Ministry's main to a public standpipe to replace the existing pond supply.

As a result of direct action 40 houses were connected to existing mains during the year.

CHLORINATION

With the exception of two works serving single parishes (Harston and Willingham) all public supplies are chlorinated.

SAMPLING

The public supplies are sampled monthly for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and apart from a variation in the hardness figure, the results have been very satisfactory.

Samples taken for analysis (public and private supplies) :-

Samples reported satisfactory	42
" " unsatisfactory	7

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the District which are open to the Public.

SHOPS ACT 1934

There are 287 shops of various categories on the register and more than half are in conjunction with private dwelling houses. In these cases the available sanitary accommodation serves both premises. 108 visits were paid to shops during the year and in two cases informal action was taken to deal with the dirty premises. In both cases the premises were promptly cleansed and redecorated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There is a fairly large seasonal influx of caravan dwellers into the area during the fruit picking season, but their stay is of short duration and although no licences are required the sites are visited.

Applications for licences received ...	3
Licences granted	3
Licences refused	Nil

Action was necessary on one occasion for the removal of an undesirable encampment and this was effected with the assistance of the Police.

(cont. over)

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN

The district remains reasonably free from infestation and few complaints have been received. The incidence of Scabies was extremely small and little action was necessary during the year.

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises or persons	25
Premises fumigated for bugs	6
" " " fleas	4
" " " lice	1
" " " scabies	1

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The Council was made responsible for the destruction of rats and mice on non-agricultural premises by the Infestation Order 1943 and during the year under review two whole time rat catchers were employed.

Owing to the County Council declining to delegate their powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Acts and the administrative difficulties arising from three authorities carrying out rodent destruction in the same area it was decided by the authorities concerned to have the work carried out by one central department and the Council's responsibility in this connection ceased on 31st December 1944. During the year it was estimated that approximately 6000 rats were destroyed on non-agricultural property, 2600 rats being actually recovered. Since no major infestation exists in the area and the degree of infestation revealed by the survey was small these figures may be considered very satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

House drains repaired	30
Closet accommodation new or improved	13

Sewage disposal plants on Military sites received attention during the year and substantial improvements were effected to two plants as a result of action by the department.

SCHOOLS

As a result of the survey of Schools carried out in 1942 improvements continue to be effected in the Sanitary arrangements provided (especially in the case of non-provided Schools) and negotiations are still in hand in respect of others. During the year 25 visits were paid to Schools and the following improvements effected :-

Drainage improved	1
Water Supply improved	3
New closet accommodation provided	1
Playground resurfaced	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The present system of refuse collection by local contract is not entirely satisfactory and is under review. Steps are in hand to secure suitable vehicles and labour to enable the Council to carry out a collection over the whole District by direct labour. The following collections are at present carried out by local contract :-

General House Refuse

No. of Parishes with weekly collection	2
No. of Parishes with fortnightly collection	1

(cont. over)

PUBLIC CLEANSING (cont.)

Unburnable Rubbish

No. of Parishes with fortnightly collection ...	1
" " " " monthly " ...	4
" " " " quarterly " ...	7
" " " " half yearly " ...	4
" " " " annual " ...	4

In one large parish a collection of night soil from houses with limited ground space is undertaken by private contract.

Disposal is by controlled tipping, but some difficulty has been experienced during the year owing to indiscriminate tipping by military units and other persons into pits for which the Council has no responsibility. Wherever possible steps have been taken to remedy the nuisance caused.

Arrangements are available whereby cesspools can be emptied mechanically by private contract.

The department is not responsible for the collection of salvage.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

MILK SUPPLY

As in previous years inspections under the Milk and Dairies Regulations occupied a large portion of the Inspector's time and, as will be seen from the table below, considerable progress continues to be made with the improvement and modernisation of Dairy premises. A larger measure of success in dealing with unsatisfactory producers is being experienced as a result of co-operation with the War Agricultural Committee and the Milk Advisory Officer. It would, however, be helpful if information could be made available as to the results of samples taken under the National Milk Testing Scheme. At present this is not the case.

The general standard of these premises continues to show improvement, but an amendment of the law enabling a local authority to require an owner to carry out repairs and improvements in certain cases would be beneficial.

No. of Wholesale Producers on register ...	194
No. of Retail " " " ...	53
No. of Wholesale and Retail " " ...	26
No. of Retail Purveyors " " ...	10

The Cambridgeshire County Council administer the Milk (Special Designations) Orders and included in the above figures are 88 'Accredited' producers and 22 holding the Tuberculin Tested Licences.

Inspections of Premises	684
Informal Notices Served	178

Since the introduction of the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, sampling by the Public Health Department is only carried out for special investigation purposes. 17 samples were taken in this connection.

Improvements carried out as a result of informal action :-

New Cowsheds constructed	15
Cowsheds improved	8
New Drainage	12
Yards improved	5
Water laid on or improved	13
New Dairies built	18
Dairies improved	5
New Machines, Coolers, Sterilizers etc.	14

(cont. over)

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES (cont.)

BAKE HOUSES

No. on register	24
Inspections made	47
Notices served	Nil.

Food.

PRESERVED PREMISES

No. on register	29
Inspections made	61

These are mainly premises for manufacture of sausages in connection with Butcher's premises. Cleansing and limewashing was carried out without the service of Notices and most premises are little used.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All private slaughtering was discontinued in 1940 and meat for the whole District is supplied from Government Slaughterhouses and Depots in Cambridge. The supervision of Butchers' premises and vehicles continues to receive attention and frequent visits are paid for the purpose of examining the meat.

The manner in which meat was transported showed some improvement and no action was necessary during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

Licences to slaughter renewed	26
New Licences granted	Nil.
Total on register 31/12/44	26

FOOD PREMISES (BUTCHERS SHOPS ETC.)

Visits paid	170
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OFFENSIVE TRADES

Apart from one Licensed Knackers yard there are no offensive trades in the area. The use of one Knackers yard was discontinued during the year.

UN SOUND FOOD

Most of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were tinned and perishable goods, which, owing to wartime hazards and transport difficulties, had deteriorated or been damaged in transport or storage. A great variety of goods were dealt with and appended below is a very condensed summary of the amount condemned as unfit :-

MEAT

379 lbs. Fresh meat (miscellaneous)
36 tins of Meat (Various)

FISH

5 stones of fillets
40 tins Fish (various)

MILK

174 tins Condensed milk.

TINNED SOUPS, VEGETABLES ETC.:

107 tins.

(cont. over)

INSPECTIONS OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES (cont.)

UNSOUND FOOD (cont.)

FRUIT ETC.

2 tons $14\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. Oranges
88 lbs. Lemons
137 lbs. Apples
120 lbs. Grapefruit
2 tons 3 cwts. of potatoes

MISCELLANEOUS

11 lbs. Tea
54 lbs. Sugar
 $15\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Butter
230 lbs. Rice
23 lbs. Cheese
 $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Biscuits

Wherever possible, condemned foodstuffs were utilised for animal feeding purposes under the supervision of the Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food.

The destination of all condemned and damaged foodstuffs consigned into the area for manufacturing or animal feeding purposes was checked.

FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Acts is appended below :-

No. of Factories with mechanical power	53
" " " without " "	22
Inspections carried out	90
Notices served	Nil.
Notification of outworkers received	3
Infected premises	Nil.

During the year one laundry building was increased in height and re-roofed. It also became necessary to carry out observations regarding the omission of noxious fumes from one Factory and, as a result of action by H.M. Alkali Inspector, a new plant was installed to remedy the nuisance.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS, AND OTHER DISEASES

The following Table shows the number of cases notified together with the age incidence

Disease	Total cases notified	At Ages - Years												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever	53	-	1	-	4	2	29	9	1	4	2	1	-	53	-
Measles	114	1	8	5	9	8	48	10	12	10	1	2	-	8	-
Whooping Cough	55	4	4	9	9	8	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1
Dysentery (Flexner)	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	7	2	2	21	-
Pneumonia	17	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	5	4	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
Diphtheria	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	4	-

There has been an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Measles. The figures for 1945 were: Scarlet Fever 25, Measles 108. The cases of Typhoid and Dysentery all occurred at a Mental Hospital situated in the District.

So far as diphtheria is concerned all four cases were of persons who had not been immunised. The arrangements for diphtheria immunisation outlined in my report for 1942 have continued to function satisfactorily and, at the end of the year it was estimated that 75% of children under 5 years of age and 72% of those between the ages 5 and 15 had been fully protected. Diphtheria prophylactic and diphtheria antitoxin are always supplied free of charge to all Medical Practitioners.

There has been no special prevalence of the non-notifiable infectious diseases.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New Cases and Mortality during 1944

Age Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	1	3	-	1	-	-
25	6	2	-	-	4	1	-	-
35	-	2	1	1	4	1	1	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 +	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	9	7	6	5	10	4	1	-

There was one death of a non-notified case.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1935 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

(Signed) ARTHUR MORGAN

M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.